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## COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS IN GREEK.

WITH the entrance requirements of sixty representative colleges and universities in view, the first impression is that of bewildering variety. A systematic tabulation under obviously important heads reveals rather less difference and more agreement than a casual examination would lead us to expect. Upon conclusions from these tables is founded the proposition that without burdening the schools or lowering the standard of the colleges, uniform requirements in Greek could be agreed to by schools and colleges from Maine to California. It is not necessary to advance arguments to prove this a consummation devoutly to be wished by school men and college professors. The definiteness of the preparation, without of necessity a choice of college or university at the outset of the pupil's preparation, would both relieve the anxieties of the teachers of the secondary schools and be a weighty inducement for the pupils to enter the course leading to college. The one step farther, to a perfect consummation, would be the acceptance of certificates, from accredited schools, upon the basis of uniform requirements.

An examination of the requirements in Greek of sixty colleges and universities gives the following facts:

### XENOPHON AND OTHER GREEK PROSE.

1. Number requiring 2 books of the Anabasis	-	-	-	-	2
2. Number requiring 3 books of the Anabasis	-	-	-	-	19
3. Number requiring 4 books of the Anabasis	-	-	-	-	33
4. Number admitting on Anabasis, but requiring more than 4 books	-	-	-	-	3
5. Number requiring 1 book of Herodotus	-	-	-	-	1
6. Number suggesting Herodotus, but allowing Iliad as substitute	-	-	-	-	1
7. Number requiring 100 page of Goodwin's reader as well as 4 books of Anabasis	-	-	-	-	1
8. Number requiring a portion of the Hellenica	-	-	-	-	2
9. Number allowing about 100 pages of Goodwin's Reader as substitute for 3 or 4 books of Anabasis	-	-	-	-	6

10. Number allowing a portion of the Hellenica as substitute for a part of the Anabasis	- - - - -	3
11. Number allowing a portion of Lysias as substitute for part of the Anabasis	- - - - -	1
12. Number allowing substitution of any classic author for 3 books of Anabasis	- - - - -	1
13. Number requiring evidence of power to read at sight average passages, without limit of minimum time in preparation	- - - - -	1
14. Number requiring same as (13), but setting 5 hours per week for 3 years as minimum time	- - - - -	1
15. Number requiring same as (13), but with limit of minimum time set at 5 hours per week for 2 years	- - - - -	1

## ILIAD AND ODYSSEY.

16. Number requiring 2 books of Iliad	- - - - -	5
17. Number requiring 3 books of Iliad	- - - - -	35
18. Number requiring 4 books of Iliad	- - - - -	1
19. Number requiring 1800 lines of Iliad or Odyssey	- - - - -	2
20. Number requiring two terms' work in Iliad and Odyssey	- - - - -	1
21. Number allowing substitution of same number of books of Odyssey for specified number of books of Iliad	- - - - -	3
22. Number allowing 4 books of Odyssey for 3 of Iliad	- - - - -	2
23. Number allowing 3 books of Odyssey with Scansion for 3 of Iliad without Scansion	- - - - -	1

## SIGHT TRANSLATION.

24. Number requiring evidence of power to translate at sight average passages of Xenophon or Homer, one or both	- - - - -	27
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## GRAMMAR.

25. Number specifically requiring Greek Grammar	- - - - -	52
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## PROSODY.

26. Number specifically requiring Prosody	- - - - -	10
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## PROSE COMPOSITION.

27. Number requiring Prose Composition	- - - - -	55
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## BEGINNERS' BOOKS.

28. Number naming beginners' book required	- - - - -	7
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In attempting to reconcile these varied lists into one set of uniform requirements, two things have been kept in view, to let, so far as possible, the usage of the greater number rule, and to

avoid offending colleges with peculiar but, to them, important requirements. The following is suggested as a fair compromise:

#### I. XENOPHON AND OTHER GREEK PROSE.

Xenophon's *Anabasis*, 4 books; or Xenophon's *Anabasis*, 1 book and 100 pp. of Goodwin's *Reader*; or Xenophon's *Anabasis*, 2 books, and Xenophon's *Hellenica*, 2 books; or Xenophon's *Anabasis*, 3 books, and 2 orations of Lysias.

#### II. ILIAD AND ODYSSEY.

Three books of the *Iliad*, omitting catalogue of ships; or 1800 lines from *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

#### III. SIGHT TRANSLATION.

Practice in sight reading to the extent of 1 book of Xenophon's *Hellenica* and 1 book of either *Iliad* or *Odyssey*.

#### IV. GRAMMAR.

The essential portions of the Hadley-Allen Greek Grammar, or of Goodwin's Greek Grammar, or of some other standard grammar.

#### V. PROSODY.

The principles of Hexameter Verse.

#### VI. PROSE COMPOSITION.

Translation of connected English prose, the vocabulary to be limited to that of Xenophon's *Anabasis*, Book II, and Xenophon's *Hellenica*, Book II.

Exception will naturally be taken to this suggested compromise, and a conclusion will be reached, as reached it some time must be, only after thorough discussion. The above, the result of one man's judgment, is merely offered as a basis for consideration.

One more suggestion, in the writer's opinion containing the meat of the whole argument, will close this brief résumé of college Greek requirements. Many believe that the barrier between school and college, which our country almost alone of civilized lands still preserves, ought to be removed. The experience of every worker in the field of preparation for college proves that the colleges lose valuable material because of this barrier. With uniform requirements and a careful supervision of schools by a

committee of Associated American colleges and universities, aided by a sub-committee in every state, could not such a certificate as this, be safely received by the oldest and most progressive university in the United States?

"I ..... principal of ..... school, in the city (town) of ..... State of ..... certify that ..... has studied Greek in this school for three years, five periods of at least 45 minutes each per week, has thoroughly covered the ground indicated by the uniform requirements of American universities in this subject, and is therefore recommended for matriculation without examination in Greek."

Were the writer suddenly vested with the responsibility of accepting or rejecting applicants for admission to a college whose standard was of vital importance to higher education in this country, he would far rather accept this certificate, than the result of an examination more or less fragmentary and more or less at the mercy of shrewd cramming.

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